

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (new) A process for fabricating a water-swellaable filter, comprising the steps of providing a filter substrate comprising a plurality of passageways therethrough, disposing into the passageways a hydrophilic polymer, irradiating the substrate to induce cross-linking of the hydrophilic polymer, such that the polymer forms a hydrogel coating on the walls of the passageways.

Claim 9 (new) The process of claim 8, wherein the filter substrate is formed from a plastic.

Claim 10 (new) The process of claim 8, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyalkyleneoxides, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylacetate, polyhydroxyalkyl, polystyrene sulfonate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (new) The process of claim 10, wherein the hydrophilic polymer is polyvinylpyrrolidone.

Claim 12 (new) The process of claim 8, wherein the irradiation is gamma irradiation or electron beam irradiation.

If there are any additional fees relatd to this Amendment, such fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-1666.

Respectfully submitted,



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